

St. Mary's Bryanston Square Internet Policy

Rationale

The Internet is an excellent resource for accessing information and a vehicle for communication to improve pupil learning and enhance teaching. The Internet, however, also contains materials which are inappropriate or unsuitable for general use. The following guidelines and procedures will ensure that the use of the Internet by pupils is regulated and used appropriately.

Our Goals

For pupils to:

- ◆ Become confident and proficient in using the Internet to enhance their learning.
- ◆ Use the Internet across the curriculum, to achieve learning objectives and apply it in authentic life contexts.
- ◆ Use it as a personal research tool.
- ◆ Use it as a means of communication.

For teachers to:

- ◆ Recognise the potential of the Internet to enhance the teaching and learning process.
- ◆ Understand what the Internet is and be aware of its range of applications.
- ◆ Use the Internet as a personal research tool.
- ◆ Use it as a means of communication.
- ◆ Use it as a means of professional development.

Guidelines

◆ General

1. The Internet is available for use by all staff and pupils to access information that supports the curriculum.
2. Staff will be trained on the use of the Internet during school professional development days and after-school sessions.
3. No pupil material is to be published on the Internet without the permission of the supervising teacher and the child's parents/carers.
4. Parents of pupils in Reception - year 2 will be required to sign an Internet contract in order for their child to access the Internet. This contract will be attached to the Home School Agreement Document. Pupils in years 3 - 6 and their parents will both be required to sign the Internet contract in order for them to have access to the Internet. This contract will be signed when the pupil begins year 3 or will be signed when the junior aged child enrolls at St. Mary's.

♦ Pupil Use

The Internet connection at St Mary's is routed through the Westminster Grid for Learning Servers and the London Grid for Learning Servers. These Servers offer a filtering service (a 'Smart Filter') to which the school is subscribed. This is designed to prevent access to undesirable material. However, to ensure that the Internet is used appropriately, and to guard against pupils trying to visit undesirable sites, the following procedures will be adopted:

1. Pupils will be given training in the use of the Internet as part of their ICT curriculum.
2. Pupils will be allowed to use the Internet for a specific, teacher-authorised, purpose under the supervision of a teacher.
3. Pupils who inadvertently access an unfavourable site (including chat rooms) must immediately inform the teacher.
4. Pupils will not access the Internet without a teacher being present in the room.
5. Pupils must not provide personal/school details on the Internet
6. Pupil access to class email activities will be supervised.

♦ Violations

Violations of this policy and/or its practices will result in Parents/Guardian immediately being informed and Internet access being revoked for up to 2 months.